



File Code: 5100; 1950
Date: October 2, 2019

Interested Parties

The Hahn's Peak Bears Ears Ranger District of the Medicine Bow - Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland invites your input on the proposed North Routt Fuels Reduction Project. The project would treat up to 3,000 acres of National Forest System lands in Routt County, Colorado, around the Steamboat Lake area.

The North Routt Fuels Reduction Project area lies within part of the central Rocky Mountains which has been heavily impacted by the mountain pine beetle epidemic since approximately 2005, resulting in high mortality within lodgepole pine stands.

The purpose of this project is to create shaded and unshaded, natural looking fuel breaks around the wildland urban interface (WUI) in the Steamboat Lake area to help in the suppression of wildland fires, provide for human safety (by reducing current and future fuel hazards and safety threats from hazard trees), and help reduce the cost of wildfire suppression (utilizing timber sales and non-emergency contracts that tend to be lower in cost).

It is anticipated that conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will occur through use of the Wildfire Resilience categorical exclusion that is part of the 2018 amendment to the 2003 Healthy Forests Restoration Act. This categorical exclusion is applicable to qualifying wildfire resilience projects in designated areas on National Forest System lands.

For this project, compliance NEPA and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) are being conducted concurrently. NEPA announcement letters and notices which invite public comment as part of the NEPA process also serve to notify and invite public comment on the proposal as stipulated by NHPA.

Your comments would be most helpful if received by November 4, 2019. Additionally, a town hall style meeting will be held on October 26th, 2019, 4 p.m. at the North Routt Fire Department Station 2, near the community of Steamboat Lake. If you would like to provide comment and/or sign up for the town hall meeting, or have questions, contact the project lead, Kevin Thompson:

Email: kevin.thompson@usda.gov

Phone: 970-638-4170

Mail or hand delivery:

Attention: Kevin Thompson

300 Roselawn Ave

Yampa, CO 80483

More information about this project is available at

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56980>

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tara Umphries".

TARA UMPHRIES
District Ranger

cc: Kevin Thompson